(a) whether the Government have issued instructions of its offices located in Delhi and outside to make local purchase of stationery and other articles from Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and National Consumer Cooperative Federation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for issuing such orders;

(c) the number of cases of irregularities in the purchase from the said institutions that have come to light in the last five years;

(d) the action taken thereon;

(e) whether it has been stipulated in the order issued in 1981 that a Committee consisting of a representative from each of Department of Supply, Urban Development and Kendriya Bhandar will fix the price of articles and the same shall be circulated to all the departments in the Government; and

(f) if so, whether any such committee has been constituted to fix the prices and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Government have issued instructions that Central Government offices and other organisations financed and/or controlled by the Government located in Delhi/New Delhi may make all local purchase of stationery and other items required by them either from Kendriya Bhandar or Super Bazar or National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) or Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) (for file covers only) and, offices located outside Delhi shall make such local purchases from local Central/Wholesale consumer cooperative societies and branches of Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF located therein. Only if they are not able to supply a particular item, such purchases should be made from other sources as per rules after obtaining no objection certificate from them. Consumer cooperatives are considered suitable agencies for supply of goods at fair and reasonable prices. Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and NCCF are Government sponsored cooperative institutions and the above instructions have been issued in pursuance of the above policy.

(c) and (d) While no case of irregularity as such in the purchases made by Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF has been reported, customers' complaints and suggestions including defects in any particular lot, are attended to promptly and remedial action taken by the above institutions. Super Bazar has also been taking remedial action on various complaints/irregularities; however, in one case regarding supply of inferior quality steel trunks to Chief Electoral Officer, Government of Delhi, the Super Bazar has referred the matter to the C.B.I.

(e) and (f) The matter is under examination.

Unemployment

1907. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have identified the rural areas in the backward States that there is unemployment and under employed; and

(b) whether the Government propose to implement any special programme for creation of employment opportunities for the unemployed people in these backward States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The major programmes for the creation of employment opportunities for the unemployed people in rural areas are Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), which are being implemented in all the States including in the backward States where there is unemployment and underemployment. Under JRY & IRDP more funds are allocated to the States which have larger number or rural poor i.e. on the basis of proportion of rural poor in the States to the total rural poor in the country. EAS moreover, is a demand driven scheme and States can come for subsequent instalments of funds as and when the district has utilised 50% or more of the available funds. The allocation/release principle under JRY, IRDP & EAS ensures that more funds are given to backward States.

[Translation]

Herbs

1908. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are forest hills in lacs of acres of land in the Vananchal region of South Bihar;

(b) if so, whether any research has been conducted regarding availability of herbs in area;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and efforts made by the "Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants" for meeting the increasing demand of herbs in Global Market and earning foreign exchanges;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a

branch of the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow for creating awareness among farmers of Giridih and Kodarma district, providing them training and educating them about the farming of herbs; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI. YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scientists of Botanical Survey of India are actively engaged in research on plants of Vananchal region of South Bihar.

(c) CIMAP, a constituent establishment of CSIR is playing pivotal role in overall development and gainful exploitation of medicinal and aromatic plants. The Institute has development agro and processing technologies for a number of aromatic and medicinal plants. Also CIMAP has developed a number of varieties of these plants. These efforts have resulted in increasing production of the medicinal and aromatic plants material not only for the internal consumption but also for export.

(d) and (e) At present there is no proposal of setting up a branch of CIMAP in Giridih and Kodarma. CIMAP will be in a position to organise training courses for the farmers, on request from local agencies.

[English]

Royalty on Government Reports

1909. *SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the PRIME* MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to impose ban on reprint and reproduction of Government reports and publications by private publishers;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government charge any royalty or fee for publishing the material contained in the reports of the various Commissions and Committees appointed by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to bring the same within the purview of Copyright Act; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) Government reports and publications can be reproduced or reprinted only with the permission of the copyright owner

(c) and (d) The Department of Publication under this Ministry which publishes Government publications does not charge any royalty.

(e) and (f) Reproduction or publication of the report of any Committee, Commission, Council, Board or other like body appointed by the Government does not constitute an infringement of copyright. If such report has been laid on the Table of the Legislature unless the reproduction or publication of such report is prohibited by the Government

Vacant D.D.A. Flats

1910. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "DDA ke 10,000 flat chaar varshon se khali pare" appearing in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated December 11, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of DDA flats lying vacant for want of water and electricity connections and the number out of such flats which have been offered for allotment to registrants of New Pattern Scheme, 1979 alongwith the reasons allotting such flats which are not fit for habitant;

(d) the time by which the electricity and water connections will be provided to the vacant flats; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to float a scheme of priority allotment of flats to the retired/retiring employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) : The DDA has reported that 17,276 flats are lying vacant for want of availability of electricity. Out of these 10,639 flats have been allotted to the registrants of all the schemes including NPRS, 1979. These allotments were made in anticipation of availability of electricity as per target dates given by DESU.

The details of all these flats alongwith the tentative programme of electrification, as given by DESU, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) No, Sir.